are taken by the Indian Air Force to carry out a proactive publicity campaign to reach the target group across the country, such as (i) participation in career fairs and exhibitions to enhance one-to-one interaction; (ii) advertisement in print and electronic media including recruitment and career related articles; (iii) motivational lectures in schools/colleges; (iv) distribution of publicity material to target group; (v) visuals/signages at vantage points all over the country at strategic locations. The Short Service Commission for Flying branch has been modified to make men also eligible for induction in this branch. The implementation of the recommendations of VIth Central Pay Commission will also go a long way in attracting youth.

Replacing INSAS rifles with AK-47

2189. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that soldiers using INSAS rifle in counter-insurgency operation find it ineffective;

(b) whether it is also a fact that INSAS gun which has a smaller calibre is meant to incapacitate the enemy rather than kill and is no longer found suitable for soldiers in counter-insurgency operation; and

(c) if so, whether INSAS guns are being replaced with modern rifle like AK-47 rifles and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (c) A large number of small arms/weapons are used in counter-insurgency operations by the Army apart from 5.56mm INSAS rifle. These include pistols, carbines, assault rifles like AK-47, LMGs etc. Soldiers are provided with operation-specific weapons when embarking on any operation including counter-insurgency operations.

The 5.56mm caliber ammunition of INSAS rifle is of high velocity and small size. Hence, it penetrates fully into the human body and exits.

As a part of the modernization of Indian Army, improvement of weapons is an ongoing process.

Regular monitoring of illegal infiltration in Southern Coastal areas

2190. SHRI P.R. RAJAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has directed Navy and Coast Guard for regular monitoring and vigilance over illegal infiltration in Southern Coastal areas; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) and (b) The Indian and Coast Guard have been regularly patrolling the coastline including Southern Coastal States for Coastal Security including prevention of illegal infiltration. Surface and air surveillance have been enhanced by Indian Navy and Coast Guard all along the coast and in all offshore development areas. Further, Joint and operational exercises are taking place between Navy, Coast Guard,